IRONDALE NEWSLETTER

Produced by the Bark Lake Cultural Developments

February / March 2026

Bark Lake Cultural Developments

Charitable No.
80487 0087 RR0001

Incorporation No.
1871121

historical@IrondaleOntario.ca

Host your next function at Irondale's heritage church

Rental Information &
Newsletter Editor
Carol 705-457-8438

Irondale Community Centre

Advisory Committee
of
Minden Hills Council

~Rentals Information~
Call

Lorne Buckingham

705-447-3352

lorne.buckingham@sympatico.ca

facebook

We encourage you to follow us on Facebook the latest news and events. Please like our posts, invite your friends & family to do the same. Thank you

facebook

Three Brothers Falls

"For river drivers of the nineteenth century, Three Brothers Falls was a landmark as they descended the Burnt River. Located just below the forks on the Burnt River, it was the first cataracts (waterfall. steep drop) on the river that were common to all *three branches*—which together drain much of east Haliburton. "

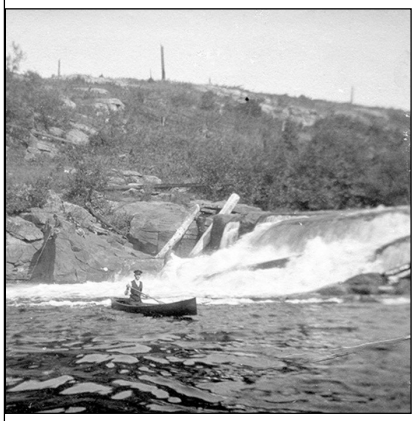
"River Drivers were "a light-hearted set of dare devils and the greatest rascals and thieves that ever a peaceful country was tormented with,"—in the words of John Langton. It was certainly a dangerous job. The drive began as soon as the ice broke up in the spring to take advantage of the spring freshet. Many of the drivers could not swim, as they burled (ie balanced) on slippery, bobbing logs, on frigid waters. Sometimes, despite their efforts, the logs would jam, especially at a rapid or waterfall. Then a volunteer would walk out on the shuddering mass of logs to pull free the key log that was holding the whole mass back—and scamper back to shore, jumping from log to log like a squirrel. Occasionally, these daredevil stunts ended badly and each rapid had its own riverside cemetery. The three wooden crosses at Three Brothers Falls have long since rotted away."

"While paddlers could travel north from Kinmount to visit Three Brothers Falls, with a connection on the IB&O Railway, and a nearby station at Howland Junction, it became more feasible for travellers from a distance to visit the site, and at the turn of the century it was advertised on postcards—which were then an exciting new advertising medium. "

Once upon a time (1990s) , it was part of my job as Minden Museum Curator to share our local history with the public. John Hulbig & I took a group of people to the Three Brothers Falls….you could walk along the shore using the defunct IB&O rail line. Once the tracks of the IB&O were removed, the right of way was sold to adjoining properties. No longer an option, along the falls is now private property, No trespassing.

Below left, note how barren the shoreline is, lots of rock exposed.

Below right, not so much anymore—only clearing where houses/cottages have been built.



For more info go to Maryboro Lodge Museum on Facebook, search using Three Brothers.

I THOUGHT YOU MIGHT ENJOY A LITTLE CHURCH HUMOR.

A minister decided to do something a little different one Sunday morning.
He said "Today, in church, I am going to say a single word and you are going to help me preach. Whatever single word I say, I want you to sing whatever hymn that comes to your mind."

The pastor shouted out "CROSS." Immediately the congregation started singing in unison,
"THE OLD RUGGED CROSS."

The pastor hollered out "GRACE." The congregation began to sing "AMAZING GRACE, how sweet the sound."

The pastor said "POWER." The congregation sang. "THERE IS POWER IN THE BLOOD."

The Pastor said "SEX". The congregation fell into total silence. Everyone was in shock. They all nervously began to look around at each other, afraid to say anything.

Then all of a sudden, way from in the back of the church, a little old 87-year-old grandmother stood up and began to sing "PRECIOUS MEMORIES".

Pass this along to others so they can smile today. (I just did).

This is Tomson Shoot as you cut off Irondale Road to go to Gooderham using Hell Street, known today as Contau Lake Road

H E L P **Bark Lake Cultural Developments needs your help.**

Carol Simmons has handed in her retirement letter! .... officially finished May 31, 2026

The Board needs individuals to come forward and become directors.

Stay informed of Haliburton County issues with these local papers - available at most stores

THE ECHO HALIBURTON COUNTY

The Times MINDEN ONTARIO

County Life Celebrating arts and culture in the Haliburton Highlands

Susie's Musings

Kill your excuses; face your fears and stop doubting yourself.

Someone will always be prettier; Someone will always be smarter; someone will always be younger. But they will never

Once you are matured, you will realize that silence Is more powerful than proving your point.

The fuller your hands are with things like washing people's feet, turning the other cheek, worship, kindness and a genuine desire to listen to other's stories—the harder it will be to pick up stones. Be so busy with love that you run out of room for judgement.

JOIN US FOR AN EVENING OF EUCHRE

Just for the Fun of it
Wednesday nights
Irondale Community Centre
corner of Irondale Rd & Line Drive Rd
play starts 7pm sharp

Play CANOE 100.9 FM Radio Bingo Tuesday Nights at 6pm

bingo sheets and dabbers
www.canoefm.com
705-457-1009
Proceeds from Radio Bingo go to Not for Profits in Haliburton Cty.

Bingo sheets can be purchased in lots of stores around the County

Peanut Butter Frogs

Put into a pot and bring to a boil for 2 1/2 minutes….
1/2 cup butter
1 3/4 cup white sugar (maple sugar instead)
1/2 cup milk
Remove from heat and add…..
1/2 cup of peanut butter
1 teaspoon of vanilla
1/2 teaspoon of salt
1/2 cup coconut
3 cups oatmeal
Mix well and drop by spoon onto a lined baking sheet. Let cool and harden. (in the frig is faster)

** Editors Note– as a kid had these made with chocolate. Always impatient, I didn't wait for them to harden before eating.
Also known as haystacks, macaroons.

PLEASE SUPPORT OUR ADVERTISERS

Tell them where you saw their ad they like to know

When a husband dies,

it is not just a man who leaves…
It's a whole world that vanishes with him.
The part of your story written together suddenly ends.
The plans that were never made dissolve.
The words you thought you'd say tomorrow are forever unsaid.
The hugs you believed were promised become memories you ache for.
When a husband dies, the bed feels too large.
The silence of the house screams louder than any sound.
His favorite cup stays on the shelf, untouched.
His clothes hold his scent but each day it fades,
as if even the fragrance wants to leave you alone.
It's not just the absence of a person.
It's the absence of a shared life.
The look that spoke without words.
The gentle "have you eaten?"
The quiet "rest, I'll do it."
The flaws you argued over yet still loved.
The presence that was always, always there.
When a husband dies, a part of you dies too.
The part that laughed with him.
That argued, forgave, dreamed, and held him for no reason.
Yes, the pain never leaves.
But neither do the memories,
the good, the bad, the imperfectly beautiful love
that made your story worth living.
So if you still have him today, hold him tighter.
Say the words your heart carries, even if they feel obvious.
Let go of pride, forgive quickly, love deeply.
Because one day, that "tomorrow" you took for granted may turn into a "never again."

Seven Minutes in Heaven

If I had seven minutes in Heaven, I know just what I'd do
Take a walk down those golden streets And find a quiet corner booth
I wouldn't spend all my seconds asking God questions 'Cause He knows I'll be back soon
If I had seven minutes in Heaven, I'd spend them all with you.

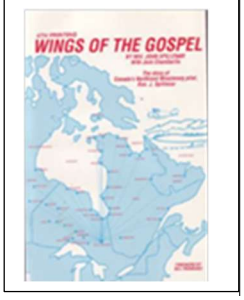
This is the chorus to a song that Reba McEntire wrote as a tribute to her mother.

Thanks to this bunch of great volunteers – another dinner went off with little fanfare.
A successful Gooderham Community Christmas Dinner.

Attendees comments ….
It was a wonderful meal & get together.
Lots of food, great variety of desserts.
Looking forward to Dec 2026

Time isn't refundable

One day, you're going to wish you had more time.
More chances.
More moments where you didn't hold back.
So stop waiting.
Stop overthinking.
Hug them. Love them.
Turn the music up.
Cry when you need to.
Laugh when you can.
Just live, because one day, all you'll have left are the memories. Make them worth it.
Found somewhere, forgot to make note as I had originally saved for myself – then thought I would share it with you the readers.



Brenda Simmons recently donated a copy of **Wings of the Gospel** by Rev. John Spillenaar. I believe it to be of the first printing. The cover is very similar to the one on the right, however the title on our copy is written differently. The one on the right boasts a print date of 1962 and says fourth edition.
I had started to skim the book because I recognized the Spillenaar name from somewhere. So of course, I had to do a bit of detective work using my Ancestry membership.

Reinhart Spillenaar was born 10 Mar 1887 in Tiel, Gelderland, Netherlands; parents Matthias W. T. Spillenaar and Alida G Bruinier. Cornelia Vendelo was born 21 Nov 1882 in Zoelen, Gelderland, Netherlands; parents Marinus Venderloo and Cornelis Van Deyk. They both immigrated and can be found on the same passenger list, ship called 'Ottawa' on 9 Sept 1909 – in fact a comment beside Cornelia says she was immigrating to marry Reinhart. They lived 5.1 km apart!!

The marriage registration is dated 13 Sept 1909 in Toronto.

The 1931 Ontario census finds the couple with children in Glamorgan, living on the property next to the Homer Wright family.
The family consisted of six children at this point – James 19, Mathew 18, Cora 17, John 13, Alida 12, and Ruth 8. James and Mathew are working as farm labourers on their father's farm; the three youngest children are still in school.

In his book "Wings of the Gospel", John recounts how he accepted the Lord at the age of twelve and at the age of nineteen began a life of ministry with only a Bible, a few tracks, a friend and the call to go north. The first church he planted was in Kirkland Lake. It was there that he met Finnish Evangelist, Tyyne Nykanen ("a beautiful blond," as John described her in his book) and they were married on January 15th, 1938. In the years following they were blessed with four children, Rose, Grace, Daniel and David all of whom are serving the Lord today.

In 1936, John felt the call to "go north and preach the gospel" and reach the indigenous peoples in the Canadian North. In 1950, John and his wife Tyyne started the Northland Mission work, establishing 18 churches in the Arctic region

On the evening of Friday December 12th, 2003, John answered another call from His Lord and went to be with Him.

Reinhart Spillenaar

Rev. John Spillenaar

As found in a scrapbook of Frederick Andrew Simmons (1917-2012)

How beautiful you are my darling, how beautiful you are!
SONG OF SOLOMON 4:1 NASB

Every woman on earth needs to hear she is beautiful, and she needs to hear it from her husband more than anyone else. Before the day is through, bless your wife by telling her how beautiful she is to you.

Flour Sack Dress

included verbatim below— written by Jessica Knapp — originally posted Oct 2015, included in Canada's History email July 2025

With a few threads and an eye for detail, the unappealing pantry bag became a Depression-era fashion item for working-class women in rural Canada.

Dressing during the Great Depression pushed women to the seams of their creativity. When searching for materials, they often opted for the raw cotton or burlap sacks in which kitchen flour or animal feed was delivered. With a few threads and an eye for detail, the unappealing pantry bag became a Depression-era fashion item for working-class women in rural Canada.

Companies realized how the bags were being repurposed and aided the effort by printing pleasant designs, fringes, and borders on the fabric. In some cases, the patterns for children's clothes, bibs, and rag dolls were outlined on the bags.

IT IS AMAZING WHAT CAN BE MADE FROM MAPLE LEAF FLOUR BAGS
Smart Clothes for the Family
Smart Things for the Home
. . . and they can be made Easily and Quickly
With the aid of the suggestions in the free book "Smart Sewing Suggestions", every trace of printing on the bags can be removed in seven minutes, leaving the useful even-weave fabric ready for use.
Just a few of the things you can make from MAPLE LEAF FLOUR BAGS as shown in "Smart Sewing Suggestions"
LOVELY DESIGNS for Embroidery and Applique for use on all your everyday work
Only 10c. POST PAID
ART EMBROIDERY AND APPLIQUÉ
Made Easy with the Service we offer

As Canada regained its economic stability in the 1940s, the flour sack dress lost its allure. The Second World War gave the dress a second wind, before it fell out of fashion in 1950s Magazines or newspapers started to offer suggestions and patterns to turn these bags into fashion.

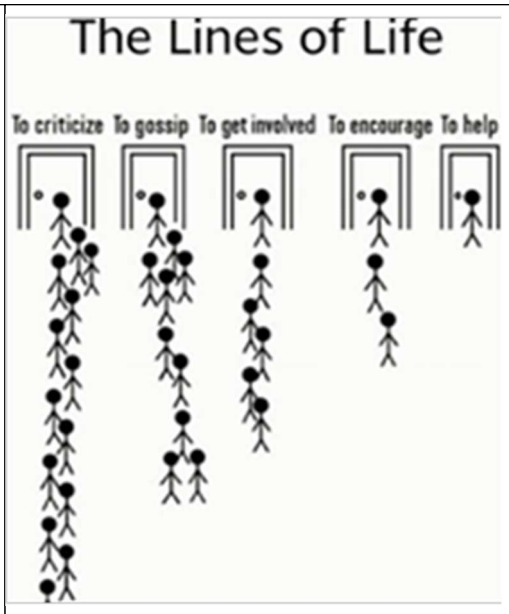
Fast Facts

- An adult's dress required material from about three bags.
- The raw cotton and burlap proved nicely resistant to rough wear from children
- Brand labels were fabricated to separate, or even to wash away, after soaking the bag.
- The bags were also used to craft men's overalls.

PIC OF THE PAST

by Creighton Feir

You have to go back to the year 1910 to be able to recognize anyone in this week's Pic of the Past. This group of hardworking men was building a bridge on the old Monck Road, two miles east of Kinmount on the little river running out of Bolt's Lake. William Carr. in the foreground on the right, was a staunch Conservative, and he was always nettling the government for the money to keep up the roads and bridges since the municipality couldn't afford to. He could always get $50 or $100, says his son Harold Carr who supplied the photograph and the information. Sitting to the left of the picture is Bob Hughes with Tom Hardaker sitting between him and William Carr. In the back row is Harry Bolt, Jack Bacon, Simon O'Grady, Almond Fern, Fred Bacon and Bill McCluney.



Saw this on Facebook, in December.
Speaks Loud & Clear.

Ask yourself -
Which line do you stand in?

A.A.A.D.D.- KNOW THE SYMPTOMS!

Thank goodness there's a name for this disorder.
"Age-Activated Attention Deficit Disorder"

This is how it manifests:
I decide to water my garden.
As I turn on the hose in the driveway,
I look over at my car and decide it needs washing.

As I start toward the garage,
I notice mail on the porch table that
I brought up from the mailbox earlier.
I decide to go through the mail before I wash the car.

I lay my car keys on the table,
Put the junk mail in the garbage can under the table,
And notice that the can is full.
So, I decide to put the bills back
On the table and take out the garbage first...

But then I think,
Since I'm going to be near the mailbox
When I take out the garbage anyway,
I may as well pay the bills first.
I take my check book off the table,
And see that there is only one check left.

My extra checks are in my desk in the study,
So I go inside the house to my desk where
I find the can of Pepsi I'd been drinking
I'm going to look for my checks,
But first I need to push the Pepsi aside
So that I don't accidentally knock it over.

The Pepsi is getting warm,
And I decide to put it in the refrigerator to keep it cold.
As I head toward the kitchen with the Pepsi,
A vase of flowers on the counter
Catches my eye--they need water.
I put the Pepsi on the counter and
Discover my reading glasses that
I've been searching for all morning.

I decide I better put them back on my desk,
But first I'm going to water the flowers.
I set the glasses back down on the counter
Fill a container with water and suddenly spot the TV remote.
Someone left it on the kitchen table.

I realize that tonight when we go to watch TV,
I'll be looking for the remote,
But I won't remember that it's on the kitchen table,
So I decide to put it back in the den where it belongs,
But first I'll water the flowers.

I pour some water in the flowers,
But quite a bit of it spills on the floor.
So, I set the remote back on the table,
Get some towels and wipe up the spill.
Then, I head down the hall trying to
Remember what I was planning to do.

At the end of the day:
The car isn't washed,
The bills aren't paid,
There is a warm can of
Pepsi sitting on the counter,
The flowers don't have enough water,
There is still only 1 check in my check book,
I can't find the remote,
I can't find my glasses,
And I don't remember what I did with the car keys.
Then, when I try to figure out why nothing got done today,
I'm really baffled because I know I was busy all day,
And I am really tired.

I realize this is a serious problem, And I'll try to get some
help for it, but first I'll check my e-mail....

This came to us by way of Bob & Joan Mann of Algonquin Highlands.

WWW.IRONDALEONTARIO.CA

Letter to Editor, Board and Newsletter Readers

It is with mixed emotions that I have tendered my resignation, effect May 31, 2026.

I have been heavily involved in the Irondale community since 2008 when an adhoc committee was formed to preserve Irondale's history. In 2012 that committee 'morphed' into the Bark Lake Cultural Developments – taking on a mortgage to purchase the Irondale Church property.

Irondale's history is certainly important and needs to be preserved and shared. I feel it is imperative that I step aside and let new blood with new ideas take over.

Please consider stepping up and taking on a position on the board. I will certainly help to make the transition as easy and seamless as possible.

Thanks for your continued support, Carol Simmons

FROM THE MAILBAG

What a wonderful newsletter. I'm so glad I joined up again. Kudos to all your contributors; they put in a lot of effort. I am so sorry and sad that we couldn't be at the memorial on the 11th. I would love to have seen the tributes to the glorious men and women who fought to keep us free. Keep up the good work and looking forward to the next newsletter.
Helen Farley (nee McGregor), daughter of Robert Edward McGregor.

Merriest Christmas and the happiest New Year to you and yours. Once again I read our newsletter front to back. Enjoyed the musings and the games as well. You are doing a wonderful job. Thanks for being there for all of us.
Cheers, Sylvia Melanson

You produced a great issue again. It's inspiring that a small community like Irondale puts on a Remembrance Day like all involved do. Thanks for including my family in those photos. There's just on correction that I'll point to, not a big issue, but a correction for the future. My Dad's Dad was born in 1893. Enjoy the Holiday Season. Winter well! See you at euchre in the spring. Regards, Dan
Editor's Note: Thanks, Dan, for bringing that to our attention. The date has been corrected in the online version of Service, Courage & Sacrifice. www.IrondaleOntario.ca

Thanks for the newsletter, Carol, always a good read. I also went to the website to view the Service, Courage and Sacrifice display. Congratulations on a wonderful exhibit, your hard work was very evident. Rw

Thank you for your newsletters. Susie's Musings are spot on. I always like to read them. I'm always amazed that a little place like Irondale has such a big volunteering community. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.
Barbara Holding

Always a great read! Thanks so much for all your work.
Peace Ann

Wanted to thank you for another year of your work on the newsletter…checked out the Remembrance Day online exhibit too, it is terrific.
Ruth Macdougall

What traditions will you honour this St. Patrick's Day?
Perhaps you'll attend a local parade, prepare a family feast, or simply wear a touch of green in quiet acknowledgment of your heritage. Maybe you'll share stories of your Irish ancestors with younger generations, passing along that precious thread for safekeeping.

You may even raise a glass and toast "Sláinte!" to those who came before—those courageous souls who crossed seas and built new lives while keeping Ireland alive in their hearts. Their strength flows in your veins, their stories remain etched in your family history.

A GOOD GIGGLE

A lady about 8 months pregnant got on a bus.

She noticed a man opposite her was smiling at her. She immediately moved to another seat. The man's smile turned into a grin this time, so she moved again. The man seemed more amused. When she moved for the fourth time, the man burst out laughing, she complained to the driver, he had the man arrested.

The case came up in court. The judge asked the man (about 20 years old) what he had to say for himself.
The man replied, "Well, your Honor, it was like this: When the lady got on the bus, I couldn't help but notice her condition. She sat under the sign of a sweet brand that said, THE DOUBLEMINT TWINS ARE COMING, and I grinned. Then she moved and sat under a sign that said, LOGAN'S LINIMENT WILL REDUCE THE SWELLING. I had to smile.
Then she placed herself under a deodorant sign that said, WILLIAMS BIG STICK DID THE TRICK. I could hardly contain myself. But, your Honor, when she moved the fourth time and sat under a sign that said, GOODYEAR RUBBER COULD HAVE PREVENTED THIS ACCIDENT, I just lost it.

The case was dismissed.

Another from Frederick A. Simmons
My beloved is dazzling and ruddy, outstanding among ten thousand.
SONG OF SOLOMON 5:10 NASB

One of the hardest things your husband will ever face is the realization that he's 'just an ordinary guy'. Every man needs to be a hero to someone. Give your husband a special form of the blessing today – tell him he's on in a million.

pampered chef
Carol Simmons
Independent Consultant # 065587
simmons03@gmail.com 705-457-8438
www.pamperedchef.ca/interactive-catalog-page

PROFESSIONAL TRAILBUILDERS
HAPPY TRAILS CONSTRUCTION
happytrailsconstruction.ca
705-455-2980

Lorraine Turcotte
Florist
Website www.lorrainesfloralcreations.ca
E-mail info@lorrainesfloralcreations.ca
705-344-1531
Kinmount ,Ont
Like us at Facebook and Instagram
Lorraine's Floral Creations

AUTHORIZED DEALER
MAGICYCLE
swagman
energybits
• FREE DIRECT SHIPPING •
877.286.2946 • steve@justebikes.ca
www.justebikes.ca
SHOWROOM 1016 Ravine Road, Minden, ON K0M 2K0
OWNERS Steven & Carla Stewart
AFTER HOURS TEXT 705.457.7934
TO ORDER: www.justebikes.ca or www.algae101.ca
USE PROMO CODES: JusteBikesBC algae101

GENERATOR SOLUTIONS.CA
Steven Stewart
President
P: 705 286 1003
1 888 489 1008
F: 705 286 2977
steve@generatorsolutions.ca
1016 Ravine Road, Minden, Ontario K0M 2K0

MINDEN ELECTRIC
ELECTRICAL CONTRACTOR
TRUSTED FOR OVER 35 YEARS
MINDENELECTRIC.COM
Steven Stewart
President
1016 Ravine Rd.,
Minden, ON K0M 2K0
705-286-2946
LICRAFESA #7002655

CANOE 100.9 & 97.1 FM
Volunteer Community Radio for the Haliburton Highlands
www.canoefm.com
Call or text to 705-457-1009
— Diverse music — Eclectic programming —
— Training opportunities for volunteers —

SDLCA.CA
Salerno (Devil's) Lake Cottagers' Association
Visit SDLCA.ca
For only $35/year, join our Association and receive:
• free admission to our annual Concert on the Lake
• The Sentinel newsletter — delivered to your inbox
• full access to all FOCA member benefits*..and more!
*Subject to change over time.

Beef Pot Pie With seasoned ground beef, tender potatoes, carrots, corn, peas, and two flaky pie crusts, it's hearty comfort food with zero stress! This would work just as well with turkey, chicken or wild meats.

What you'll need:

1 pound ground beef
½ large yellow onion, diced
3 cloves garlic, minced
½ teaspoon dried thyme
½ teaspoon dried marjoram
1 teaspoon salt
½ teaspoon pepper
1 cup peas, canned or frozen
1 cup corn, canned or frozen
½ cup carrots, diced small
½ cup celery, diced small
1 large potato, peeled and cubed into small pieces
1 can of diced tomatoes
2 9- inch homemade pie crusts, or store bought
1 egg, lightly beaten

Joel Greenberg interviews - Barbara Gordon

I first saw Barbara in a Toronto production of The Dining Room. I was completely taken with her performance, her warmth, her clarity. I hoped that I would have the opportunity of working with her, and in 2006 we finally did get to work together — The Arab-Israeli Cookbook provided the opportunity. And I've followed her career since then. Theatre audiences will know Barbara from her performances in A Doll's House (Belfry Theatre, Victoria), Calendar Girls (Royal Alex, Toronto/MTC, Winnipeg), Half Life (Tarragon Theatre, Toronto), Criminals in Love/Escape from Happiness (Factory Theatre, Toronto). Film and Television audiences will recognize Barbara from Learning to Love Again, Skinwalkers, Hyper Cube, The Boys, Murdoch Mysteries, Best Laid Plans, Little Mosque on the Prairie and Wonderland.
Listen on Apple Podcasts: ***https://podcasts.apple.com/ca/podcast/life-in-stages-with-joel-greenberg/id1767253578?i=1000740840330***